

10/03/23 • BIG PHARMA › NEWS

Connecticut School Board Faces Lawsuit for Rejecting School-Based Mental Health Clinic That Wanted to Treat Teens Without Parents' Consent

The Killingly, Connecticut, school board faces an inquiry and lawsuit after rejecting a government-funded school-based mental health center run by an outside contractor that doesn't require parental consent to treat teens.

By Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

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The Killingly Board of Education in Connecticut has been under fire since March 2022 when it refused to sign a five-year contract to install a federally funded school-based health center (SBHC) that would provide mental health services to minors without parental consent.

Instead, the board contracted for a similar center, but with month-to-month terms and parental consent required for treatment — and without federal grants or the rules they might impose.

The board's rejection of the initial proposal, approved by the superintendent, led to the board and its members being slammed in local media, personally attacked, and subjected to a state investigation and a lawsuit.

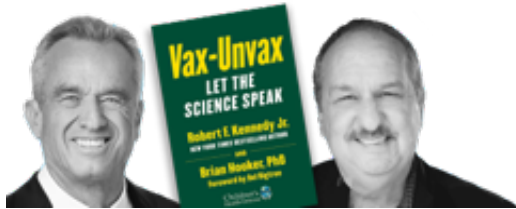
Kelly Martin, vice chair of the Killingly Board of Education, and Sheila Matthews, founder of the nonprofit AbleChild, shared the board's story with CHD.TV host Stephanie Locricchio on Monday's "Good Morning CHD."

Next week, the Killingly board faces a hearing, following a report last month — by attorney Michael McKeon, director of legal and governmental affairs for the Connecticut State Department of Education — criticizing the board's actions.

The Killingly board rejected McKeon's report as a "position statement," and underscored the work they have taken to support Killingly children's mental health.

The recent push by the U.S. federal government to rapidly expand the use of SBHCs across the country — largely justified as an intervention into a mental health crisis among young people — has critics concerned children will receive unnecessary or unwanted medical interventions without their parents' knowledge or consent.

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's New Book: "Vax-Unvax"



School board beset by two-year battle including pandemic policies

Martin told Locricchio the controversy began when the school superintendent presented the school board with a proposal to put an SBHC in the school. The proposal provided only one possible service provider: Generations Family Health Center, which explicitly provided services without parental consent.

But many board members objected.

"The problem was never [with providing] mental health treatment," Martin said. "We recognized that post-COVID children really, really need help. The problem was with the parents never being informed that the child was going to be treated."

She added, "And that was something that was important to us — the parent doesn't need to know what's being discussed, [but they do] need to know that the child has a problem and is being treated and that they can actually keep a watchful eye on that child."

The board voted down the SBHC, and a battle began. A group of parents represented by attorney Andrew A. Feinstein filed a complaint against the board seeking to overturn its vote, Martin said.

Once the board turned down the initial proposal, it interviewed alternative mental health services providers and set up a mental health clinic in the school where parents must opt-in to their child's treatment.

But the state is not happy with that, she said. "They want that very first option, so it's been an uphill battle since the lawsuit was actually filed," she said.

The board had already come into conflict with the superintendent because it voted against an in-school COVID-19 vaccine clinic and then ended the in-school mask mandate.

Martin described the blowback:

"We have had people attack us constantly for the last two years. They're making accusations that we don't care about the mental health of children, [that] we don't care about children at all. They've accused us of being racist, of being white supremacists. You

name it, we've been accused of it.

"It's been a very long two years. It all started when we started to give a little bit of pushback on some of these things."

She said the group of people attacking them is small, "but they're very vocal, they're very loud," and their actions have made board supporters

The CHD Bus

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Superintendent and attorney suing the board have conflicts of interest

The school board investigated the origins of the proposal and found the superintendent had put in a request for funding a mental health clinic without ever informing board members.

Martin said over the last few decades, power over schools has slowly been transferred from school boards to superintendents.

Because the clinic was to be grant-funded, they combed through the school board history to find which board policies had been changed to give power over grants to the superintendent — and reversed them.

In this case, the grant was part of ESSER II funding (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) — \$54.3 billion made available by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 — with the requirement that it be awarded by September 2023.

She said the argument being made publicly and to parents was that this was a completely free, grant-funded clinic that would provide children with immediate assistance — so it was seen as a great idea all around.

But the clinics aren't actually free, Martin pointed out. Once the grant ends, the cost burden shifts to the district.

Martin said children with mental health issues, of course, do need support as quickly as possible, but the only proposal made was for a clinic with a contract that was five years long and no parental consent.

She said the board wanted to review a variety of proposals, but they were only given that one.

In its investigations, the board also learned the superintendent sat on the board of the Northeast Early Childhood Council together with members of Generations — the one clinic he brought to the board.

After the board interviewed several other proposed clinics and selected one, she said Feinstein and a dissenting board member launched a media campaign smearing the clinic they selected, accusing it of bending to the board's political agenda, which it implied was right-wing or "tea party."

The selected clinic pulled out of the agreement with the board for fear its reputation would be ruined.

The board finally found another school-based mental health care provider, but the entire process dragged on for two years.

Little school board 'up against Goliath'

Matthews, who works on national issues surrounding children's mental health, became involved when she saw news stories that gave a disproportionate amount of negative attention to one small school board.

She began researching the issue and found that Feinstein is a registered lobbyist in the state of Connecticut and has received payments from a law firm dedicated to mergers and acquisitions in Big Pharma and to government grants that fund school-based clinics.

Matthews explained how government funding is funneled to different behavioral health vendors to set up clinics or provide medications, which make millions from children's suffering.

Matthews and Martin said the school assessed students' mental health by having them fill out anonymous surveys in school, without parental knowledge or consent, which is a common practice.

The surveys ask serious questions — such as whether the children are experiencing suicidal ideation — without any follow-up.

Instead of addressing students' mental health, the questionnaires are simply evidence-gathering mechanisms to justify funding requests, Matthews said.

Both women encouraged parents to talk to their children about these surveys and to exercise their parental rights to opt out of them. Matthews' organization AbleChild provides a sample letter parents can use to do this.

According to Matthews, \$258 billion has come into the states from these ESSER funds overall. States are compelled to distribute the funds quickly before deadlines pass, but involving parents and community organizations slows down that process, she said.

"And these vendors smell the money," she added.

Matthews, who studies how federal funds are directed to distribute potentially dangerous medications to children — particularly among children in foster care and on Medicaid — said the funds are lining the pockets of industry, not supporting children's mental health.

"These block grants, this is the Achilles heel we have to take a look at. We have to look at these behavioral health vendors that have already set up shop in our school system."

She said at minimum there needs to be a way to track the grants awarded so that parents can research what is happening in their schools and make informed decisions.

She added:

"This little town in Connecticut, they are up against Goliath. Okay? They are up against the drug companies. They are up against the behavioral health vendors. They're up against the state. They're up against the federal government. They are swimming in, I want to say, an ocean of corruption when it comes to these grants."

Martin said the next step in the school board's case is an inquiry hearing at the state building in Hartford on Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. It is open to the public.

Locricchio appealed to CHD.TV's audience to show support for the board, especially because local supporters have been scared into silence by the public attacks.

"We would love to see some of our CHD [Children's Health Defense] supporters there to stand with Kelly and Sheila and all the people that are involved in this because it could be your school district tomorrow that's going through it," Locricchio said. "And we know that we are so much stronger together."

Watch here:

SUGGEST A CORRECTION



Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 10 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's from the University of Texas at Austin.

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Best Newest Oldest

 **holisticpoet**

12 days ago edited



The parents of the students in this district need to get together to deal with this. I know first hand what these psychotropic medications can do to children from personal experience. My daughter was angry that her mother was an alcoholic. They put her on several different kinds of psychotropic medications over the years and when I last saw her she was a complete basket case. That was almost ten years ago. I personally raised her son for the last thirteen years after he begged me not to leave him with her. Before the meds she was just angry and I knew nothing about the effects of these meds. Now I would not recommend them to my worst enemy.

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 **Lundy Bancroft**

12 days ago



This is all part of a push to get kids on psychiatric meds. The push is incredibly well researched and documented in the mind-boggling but carefully-reasoned book *Your Consent is Not Required: The Rise in Psychiatric Detentions, Forced Treatment, and Abusive Guardianships* by Rob Wipond. It gets my highest recommendation.

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 **aj54** → Lundy Bancroft

12 days ago



It is very long process to properly titrate off the drugs without screwing up brain health even more. EVERY other alternative should be tried first. Most of the drugs are not meant for years-long use, but that is what usually happens.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

 **April45**

12 days ago



This story is a good example of the predatory indoctrination centers our schools have become. These people have no shame or fear and they destroy children without any guilt. What kind of a sick society have we become? I am glad that this school is standing up to these predators, may God be with them.

9 0 Reply • Share ›

 **kris**

11 days ago



The federal govt is trving to use the kids in this countrv as guinea pigs. Congrats to that school

The federal govt is trying to use this case in the coming as game plan. Congrats to that school board for pushing back. I hope all the other school boards can wake up and have just as much courage!

6 0 Reply • Share ›

N

notaluvvie

12 days ago

One is reminded of Parkinson's Law and its corollaries: creating a demand and then providing the supply. What they need is the Three Rs and Civics.

5 0 Reply • Share ›



Wendy Allen

12 days ago

Anti-depression medicine with Fluoride may cause suicidal thoughts as it lowers oxygen burning in cells.

4 0 Reply • Share ›



brbg

→ Wendy Allen

11 days ago

Yes, antidepressants are known to cause violence against self or others.

1 0 Reply • Share ›



Christine

7 days ago

Excellent article! Compliments to the writer, giving so much helpful context to understand what is happening and using this case as a model to start to understand what to do with this situation.

3 0 Reply • Share ›



Lupa NAG M.

11 days ago

I'm wondering if this state sanctioned clinic is also hoping to catch some kids dealing with the trans puberty confusion. Many of the school groomers are not telling parents what's happening.

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Ablechild

12 days ago

Thank you! We are so happy to have our work covered. AbleChild

3 0 Reply • Share ›



r smith

→ Ablechild

7 days ago

I have several issues, speaking as a former School Board president.

1. Parents need to be involved and notified about any proposed treatment on their children.
2. In this case, the Superintendent only gave one proposal that did not involve parental notification and consent.
3. Sadly, today's medical profession is quick to prescribe controlled drugs without providing other alternatives, thanks to the tremendous influence of the pharmaceuticals.

Keep up the good fight!

3 0 Reply • Share ›



PDouglas

12 days ago

Sounds like the Corleones don't want anyone using a business they don't have their hooks into.

2 0 Reply • Share ›



Priscilla King

7 days ago

And they think the <u<students< i=""> are the ones with the mental problems?

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1

1ofthePeople

7 days ago

An excellent resource for brain health, aka mental health is Dr. Georgia Ede's website:

[DiagnosisDiet.com](https://diagnosisdiet.com)

Is anyone here surprised to learn that the government's recommendations on diet may not be optimal for human growth, development, and function?

1 0 Reply • Share ›

1

1ofthePeople

7 days ago

Mental health is really brain health.

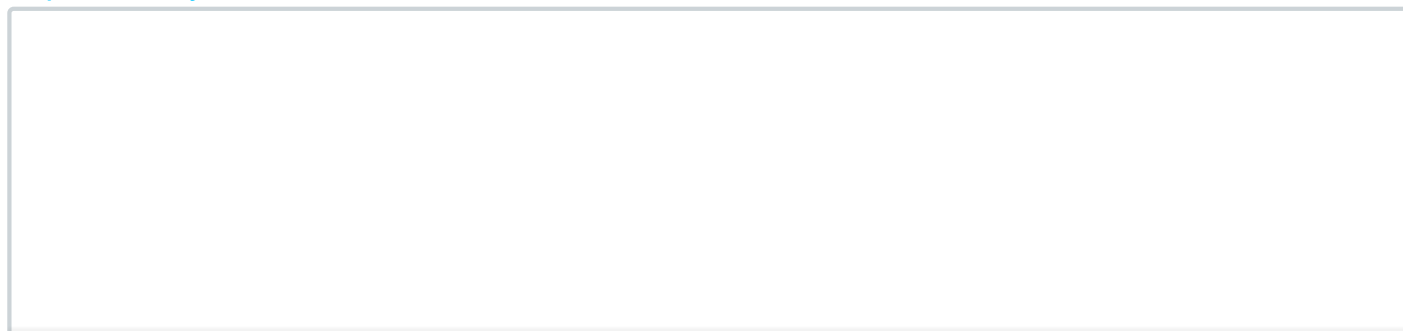
Dr. Georgia Ede, MD, a Harvard trained psychologist who has been studying and using a nutritional approach in her practice for years.

'Our Descent into Madness - Modern Diets and the Global Mental Health Crisis'

[youtube.com/watch?v=TXIVfwJ6RQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXIVfwJ6RQ)

More of her excellent presentations:

<https://www.youtube.com/res...>



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J

[jann](#)

5 days ago



Thank you for this expose. I've been explaining to parents the role that ESSER funds play in this government takeover of our children. Kudos to the Killingly Board of Ed for standing up to the allure of money. All school boards need to follow their lead. Parents have been asking what the purpose of these surveys is. I should have known they were to justify funding.

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